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To the Author of the WEEKLY REGISTER.

SIR,

AS I have before hinted, those Gentlemen who write for the Stage, never commit greater Mistakes when first they enter on that Study, than in what the Players call the Business of a Play, and Criticks the Fable and Plot: There is many a Tale which by the Force and fine Language, and pretty Sentiments will make a very good Narration, that, in Representation, would make none at all.——The strongest Incidents, which can happen in *Life*, are only fit for the Drama, and, if they are wanting, Poetry, Sense, and Regularity unite in vain. For want of knowing this in Time, many a Genius has toil'd to no Purpose, and met with a Rebuff from the Managers, when he thought himself sure of Applause from his Audience. Players know the Force of this Secret mechanically, and hit upon the Deficience in a Moment; but are seldom able to explain what they mean by it.——So that an Author has gone away with Resentment, tho' rightly condemn'd, merely because they did not know the Principles of their own Criticisms.

Neither will the greatest and noblest Incidents answer Expectation, if introduc'd into a raw and crude Manner, without Necessity, Connection, or Consequence, and 'tis even possible for a perfect Tale to be murder'd, for want of Skill in the Writer, to manage it as it ought.

Many Writers have had an Idea of this grand Essential of dramatical Pieces, but did not know how to bring it into Practice: They, therefore, endeavour'd to cover the Defect by something like it; but as far from the Reality as Tin from Gold: Such is a Multiplicity of Characters and Plots, that instead of amusing and surprizing, bewilder and perplex, and an Audience sits in Pain, imagining there is some Meaning, tho' they are not able to find it out.

Others again, have in a Manner slighted the mechanical Part of Plays, and have thought a World of fine Things, such as strong Sentiments, glittering Descriptions, and tender Love Toys, the only necessary Ingredients in a Tragedy. On this Principle, there are Numbers of *English* Plays founded, without Order or Harmony, Beginning or End, without so much as one masterly or well-conducted Scene, yet abounding with beautiful common Place Topicks, that might be cut out without being miss'd, or introduc'd any where else as well.

To give your Readers a clear Idea of what I mean, I'll present them with some Extracts from an old Play, intitled, *Sicily* and *Naples*, or the *Fatal Union*. Who the Author is I know not, but he certainly had a Genius, tho', for want of Judgment to guide it, he has fallen into Absurdities, that no Beauties can atone for.

His Action, instead of being single, is branch'd into three different Walks. The first relates to an Amour between *Ferrando* King of *Naples*, and *Calantha* Princess of *Sicily*, which was set aside by her Father, after it had been in Treaty, and occasioned a War between the two Kingdoms, wherein *Ferrando* is victorious, kills the King of *Sicily* with his own Hand, and carries his Daughter Prisoner to *Naples*: Who is so struck with these Misfortunes, and that her Lover should be the Instrument, that she runs distracted, and her Cure, Marriage, and subsequent Misfortunes, on the Discovery of an imaginary Rival, is the immediate Business of the Play: The Love of *Valenzo*, the *Neapolitan* General, with *Charintha*, *Ferrando*'s Niece, and the Friendship of *Piero* for him, is the next subordinate View, and the Intrigues of *Ursini*, the King's Favourite, to disgrace him, win *Charintha* for himself, destroy the King by the Means of one *Zisca*, a counterfeit *Moor*, but in Fact the Brother of the Queen's Rival abovementioned, make up the rest.

This is a summary View of the whole Play, and what Confusion must necessarily follow, I'll leave my sensible Reader to determine: And yet by the succeeding Quotations it will appear, that the Writer was an excellent Poet, and, with a little more Knowledge of the Stage, would have made a very considerable Figure in this Way of Writing.

Piero's Description of the Queen's Madness.

Pier. Our Tears are better spent upon her Sorrows,
Than our own Sins, she talks so prettily,
Clothes Grief in such a sad and pious Garb,
So void of any Rudeness, that we see
Composedness in Distraction, Reason in Madness;
She never walks but when she's led along,
And that so faintly, as she had not Spirits
Enough to actuate her tender Limbs:
Want of Meat and Sleep have made her seem
A living Coarse; to see her weep, you'd fear
That every Drop were her own funeral Tear.

Zisca's Reply to *Ursini*, on being tempted to destroy the King.

It is the Pride of Princes, to be thought Gods here
On Earth, daring to mock Omnipotence,
To create them Favourites, set them aloft
In their own Sphere, till remote Kingdoms gaze
At their prodigious Height, then in an Instant
Shoot them from thence, like falling Meteors:
Had he not lov'd you first, you could not be
The Object of his Hate, you were too poor,
And safe, when 'twas to have him glory in
Your Ruins: Innocence below enjoys
Security and quiet Sleeps, Murder's not heard of,
Treachery is a Stranger there, they enjoy
Their Friends and Loves, without Ravishment,
They are all equal, every one's a Prince,
And rules himself, they speak not with their Eyes
Or Brows, but with the Tongue, and that too
dwells i'th' Heart.

Calantha to the King while distracted.

We shall all sleep quietly
When we are dead, there is no Noise of Chains,
We shall not dream of Prisons, Racks, or Whips:
But every Night shall see the Gods descend
On our soft Slumbers, and kiss away our Miseries.
Ladies, you'll see me shrowded decently,
When I am dead, down in the Mead you, where
Grim *Pluto* stole his *Proserpine*, are still
The Flowers she scatter'd: Go, bring 'em hither,
And strew me o'er with 'em; she was a Virgin
chast,
And I have heard that Flowers of their gathering
Will never die; quickly make Haste, 'tis said
We're very noisome after Death, I would not
Offend then, 'cause I can't ask Forgiveness:
Before I die I'll break my Heart, and give
A Piece to every one to wear in's Bosom,
And you shall have it whole, *Ferrando*: Pray
Use it as you would her you lov'd, while I
To quit these Miseries will go pray and die.

Calantha's Dream before her Marriage with *Ferrando*.

Methought I saw
Aurora from the East come weeping up,
Wrapt in Night's Sables, and the following Day
Pac'd slowly on, in Grief's sad Livery;
The pensive Winds sigh'd forth a solemn Dirge,
And strove to blow our Marriage Tapers out:
When you *Ursini* join'd in the Solemnity,
I saw you look like *Sicily*'s pale Ghost,
Broke from the hollow Caverns of the Earth;
This Hand *Ferrando*, at each gentle Touch
Moulder'd to Ashes; on your Lip there sat
A Frost, which when I tasted strait convey'd
An icy Chilness thorough every Joint;
The stammering Priest methought mistook the Rites,
And 'stead of those are us'd at Nuptials,
Sung a short Requiem to our Souls, committed
All that was left of us, to the Earth, our last
Cold Bed.

Ferrando's Transport on the Nuptial Ceremony.

Yet you my Royal Fair, can wear me at
A careful Distance, tremble at each Touch
Of Hand or Lip, as if you fear'd a Rape:
——Display this beauteous Treasure, lovely Sweet;
And let these Flowers which dwell upon thy Cheek,
Like those proud Maja Wares, i'th' smiling Ides
Blaze wild and open —— see! they are fresh and
lively,
Their Odour flies to Heaven in a Sacrifice!
Jove I'm thy Rival;—and will share thy Incense:
Sweet as the purple Smoak arising from
The *Phœnix* funeral Pile, or Southern Breath
Perfum'd with all *Arabia*'s Spiceries.

These Examples are sufficient to prove, how fine an Imagination this Writer was Master of, and how pure a Stile he expres'd himself in: The only Scene in the Play, that can be properly call'd one, I'll transcribe intire, to shew how defective he was in Action, which is the Life of the Stage, tho' some of the Speeches and the Incident at the Criticism, demand some Approbation.——'Tis a bold Expostulation of *Charintha*'s with the King, for the Life of *Valenzo*, whom he had ordered for Execution.

Ferrando, Ursini, Charintha.

Fer. —— Contemn our Pardon.
Urs. Return your Favours too
With so much Scorn.
Fer. Better they'd play'd with Lightning,
Or hugg'd a Thunderbolt.
Urs. Justice is slow
Of Pace, and if not led by Fury,
Seldom o'ertakes the Crime, let your Return
Of Punishment be quick and active, Delay is worse
Than Pity, and more dangerous: *Valenzo*
Is popular, and who knows, but he had rather
Owe his Life to the People's Mutiny, than your
Pardon,
And therefore slighted it.
Fer. Oh the State of Princes!
How far are we from that Security
We dreamt of in th' Expectance of our Crown?
Were foreign Dangers nothing, yet we nourish
Our Ruin in our Bosom: *Valenzo* is a Traitor,
So is *Piero* too; and who is not in this Age?
It is unsafe not to suspect ourself.
To torture with 'em; be noble in thy Justice:—
Here draw a Warrant for their Execution;—
We'll sign't with our own Signet;—hence Pity
Post from our Breast; we banish thee our Bosom,
Th'rt a Disease bred there to ruin Majesty:
And sink us below our Subjects Scorn.—
Charintha! [*Enter Charintha.*]
Our Princely Cousin, welcome to Court; thou hast
Been too long absent, (I must chide thee for't,)
And envy'd us the Boast of Virtue.
Char. Virtue!
Urs. Some malicious Devil now, or other,
Has entic'd her from her Beads;
To undo me, and my Plots, she carries Anger
In her Brows — this I must mitigate, or I am
Lost.——
Fer. Thou art so eager after Heaven,
Thou woo't o'er-buy thy Happiness.
Char. Never fear't, Sir.
Fer. But thy Devotion's season'd with so much Charity,
Thou pil'st a Stock of Merit up for us
At Court.

[Price THREE HALF-PENCE.]

N. B. *Advertisements, of a reasonable Length, are put in this Paper at Two Shillings and Six-Pence each.*

Char. I believe y' had need on't.
Fer. As long as we live here we ſhall. ——
Char. So wicked!
Fer. Ha! what Frown's that, whence theſe Clouds, *Charintha?*
So riſes the bluſhing Morn, as thou wert wont
To ſmile, when thou appear'dſt, we owe
Our Day unto thy Eyes: and if thou think'ſt
Thy Beauty's worn too cheap, we'll become Tributaries
To thee for Light; chaſe hence this ſullen Darkneſs,
Thy Abſence has already made too long
A Night.
Char. No Sir; 'twas your black Deeds.
Fer. How's this?
Do y' know me, who I am?
Char. Not well.
Fer. Your King.
Char. A Tyrant
Of big and grorious Impieties,
A regal Monſter, the true Head of that
Beaſt you rule, the Multitude: More cruel
Than enrag'd Lyons, or robb'd Bears; who both
Will ſpare the Innocent and Humble.
Fer. Look to th' Lady there, ſure ſhe's diſtracted.
Char. My Wrongs indeed would make me ſo.
Fer. What Wrongs? whence? or from whom?
Char. Raiſe not my Anger higher with your Scorn.—
Fer. By all that's.——
Char. Or if't be Ignorance of my Sufferings,
It but betrays your want of Reaſon, and
How far you're loſt to Man, by your fond Dotage.
Fer. Grow more particular, or Wonder ruins me,
Char. Good God! I've ſuffer'd ſo long, till Patience
Grew my greateſt Crime.——
Urſ. Now, now the Storm is coming this Way,
But I'm prepar'd to meet it.
Char. Whence? or from whom?
Aſk this good Man how often he has mourn'd
Over the Ruins of my Fame? how often
His Ears have met with the Report of my
Diſgrace? how I was nois'd a Strumpet? when
Each talking Thing at Court might freely act
A Rape upon my Virtue, till I was left
All a whole Stain, black as the Front of perjur'd
Sinners? while you, (as if I'd been a Trifle
Caſt from your Blood and Kindred, or ſome dark Thing,
Whoſe Actions were ſo fouly bad,
That Report better'd 'em in the Expreſſion:)
Could ſit as ſilent as the Night; as calm
As Seas, when the Winds ſleep; yet at laſt be juſt;
And ſay, how have I appear'd to you, or him,
That Calumny has thus been privileg'd,
To violate my Honour?
Urſ. Madam,
I have always ſpoke you Chaſtity's beſt Example.
Fer. Innocence itſelf is not ſo white.
Char. Yet he that would confirm this with his Sword,
Muſt meet with Priſons, Wracks and Tortures,
As a Reward of ſo much Virtue!
Fer. Ha!
Urſ. Sweeteſt Princeſs!——
Char. And e'er he die, muſt ſuffer in's Honour,
Be proclaim'd Traitor to the State.
Fer. *Urſini*, thou haſt abus'd our Truſt.
Urſ. My Lord. ——
Char. Too weak Pretence, for your Ingratitude
To ſo large Merit; *Naples* calls him
Her chief Preſerver; he brought home Victory
By his own Arm atchiev'd, when the proud Foe
Threatned your Kingdom with a fatal Downfall,
He, to whoſe Arm you owe your Life, your Crown,
To whom in War you'd ſooner fly for Help
Than to the Altar; now in Peace muſt have
His Temples robb'd; his Garlands from his Brow
Tranſplanted, to adorn this uſeleſs Statue.
Urſ. Madam, I have not ſo appear'd in managing theſe Affairs of yours.
Char. Would thou had'ſt,
Or ſomewhat that carries leſs Reſemblance
Of Man: Oh thou art bravely wicked!
Urſ. I have not us'd the Art to boaſt the Virtue
Of mine own Actions; yet Heaven knows
They were all good, and aim'd at Ends as honourable
As your Deſires.
Fer. *Urſini* leave, till there is Hope of Pardon,
This Impudence in Sin
Bids a Defiance to all Mercy; did we not,
At your Perſuaſion, give Order for *Valenzo*'s
Quick Diſpatch?
Urſ. How e'er I ſeem'd (great Sir) to run down with the Stream of your violent Paſſion, yet my Intents ſtill bore up againſt it; witneſs this Paper.
Fer. Ha! What's here a Pardon?
Urſ. Which you had ſeal'd e'er this, had not this Lady here interrupted it.
Fer. How?
Urſ. Your Paſſion would not have permitted you
To have o'er-view'd what you conſented to?
This I knew, as likewiſe how dangerous it
Would have been to the State, if he had fall'n.
Fer. Again my own *Urſini*: ——
Charintha, pardon our Errors, we will deſerve it,
By the future Love and Honours we will throw
On our *Valenzo*, —— here take my Signet,
Fetch 'em to Court.
Char. You are noble.
Fer. *Urſini* wait on her to the Caſtle.
Urſ. You honour me.
Fer. Oh how near were we Deſtruction.

Reaſon ſit ſtill enthron'd in thine own State,
'Tis Paſſion only ruins Kings, not Fate.

The Play ends with Abundance of Butcheries: The Death of the King and Queen, by the Hand of *Ziſca*, who firſt raviſhes his own Siſter, miſtaking her for the Queen, then *Ziſca*'s mad, and the Execution of *Urſini*.

SATURDAY, *December* 14.

WE hear the Dean and Chapter of *Weſtminſter* will petition the Parliament for Money to repair, beautify, and finiſh, *&c. Weſtminſter-Abbey*; and that two fine Towers will be erected, and a very fine Window, curiouſly painted, ſet up at the Weſt End of the ſaid Abbey.

We have an Account from *Paris*, that the *Britiſh* Subjects who were taken and impriſon'd there, either for Galley Slaves or Recruits for the *Iriſh* Regiments, in Conſequence of his moſt *Chriſtian* Majeſty's Order of the 2d of laſt Month, againſt *Engliſh*, *Scotch* and *Iriſh* Vagabonds, have all been lately ſet at Liberty, except two who took on in Major-General *Bulkely*'s Regiment. 'This 'we ſuppoſe is owing to the Noiſe that Order made here, 'and the little Diſpoſition *France* found *Britons* in to digeſt the Terms Vagabond and Galley Slave: She timely 'put Water in her Wine; and perhaps a certain Court 'would be as pliable in a great many other Points, if 'they were as briſkly taken up as this recruiting Affair has 'been.'

We hear that *Bodenham* the Watchmaker, who kept the *Ship* Alehouſe in the *Old Bailey*, and was lately tranſported for 14 Years, for receiving Goods ſtolen from Col. *Des Romane* at *Paddington*, is dead at *South Carolina*, and has left behind him near 100 l. in Money, beſides Gold and Silver Watches, *&c.* which 'tis ſaid he has bequeath'd to the famous *Kate Buck*, who was tranſported with him.

Preferment. Yeſterday *James Serle*, of the City of *Winchester*, Attorney at Law, was ſworn a Maſter Extraordinary in the High Court of *Chancery*.

MONDAY, *December* 15.

Next Sunday, immediately after Divine Service, before Noon, will be performed the annual Ceremony of throwing Bread and Cheeſe out of *Paddington* Church Steeple, among the Spectators, and giving them Ale. This antient Cuſtom was eſtabliſhed by two Women, who purchaſed five Acres of Land in the ſaid Pariſh (ſince called Bread and Cheeſe Land, now let at 10 l. *per Annum*) to the above Uſe, in perpetual Commemoration of the particular Charity whereby they had been relieved when in extreme Poverty.

On Saturday laſt came on a Trial at the Court of *Common-Pleas*, *Guildhall*, (a ſpecial Jury being impannell'd, conſiſting of eminent Merchants of this City) wherein *Joſeph Chitty*, Eſq; was Plaintiff, againſt Mr. *Read*, Maſter of a Ship called the *Goulding*, for Damage of Hemp brought by the ſaid Veſſel from *Peterſburg*; and after ſeveral Arguments of Counſel on both Sides, and the Examination of ſeveral Witneſſes relating to the Cuſtom of the *Ruſſia* Trade, the Jury brought in their Verdict in Favour of the Defendant.

In the Month of *Auguſt* laſt, Capt. *Clark*, Maſter of the Brig. *Good Intent*, loſt his Veſſel in the Harbour of *Trepaſi* in *Newfoundland* in a violent Storm, where many were drove aſhore, and about forty Men were loſt. Capt. *Clark* was inform'd, that in St. *John*'s Harbour eleven Boats were loſt, and all the Hands ſave one.

The *Brotherhood*, Capt. *Coſker*, bound from St. *Ube*'s to *London*, is loſt near *Newhaven* in *Suſſex*, and the Maſter and two Men were drowned.

Exported into Foreign Parts, from *November* 29 to the 14th Inſtant, 5510 Quarters of Wheat, 600 Quarters of Barley, 150 Quarters of Beans, 200 Quarters of Peas, and 602560 Ounces of Foreign Silver, coin'd, to the *Eaſt-Indies*.

On Saturday the 7th Inſtant, Mrs. *Harris*, a Quaker, well known for her great Skill in Needlework, was introduc'd to her Majeſty, and preſented her with two Caps of uncommon Fineneſs, deſign'd for the Princeſs of *Orange*, as Part of her Childbed Linnen.

In the Seams of that deſign'd for a Prince was work'd,

As Providence to Glorious William *gave*
Theſe happy Nations, which he came to ſave:
Still may kind Heaven, with Royal Honours, bleſs
His Princely Race, and ſend us large Increaſe.

And there were other Verſes in the Cap deſign'd for a Princeſs. With them ſhe deliver'd the following Addreſs to her Majeſty:

'*May it pleaſe the Queen*,

'A faithful Subject of thine, and one of thoſe call'd 'Quakers, (a People who have diſtinguiſh'd themſelves by 'their Love to thy Family) has been excited by the happy 'Marriage of that amiable Princeſs thy eldeſt Daughter 'with the Prince of *Orange*, to ſhew that the pleaſing 'Thoughts of it remained with her many Days. I have, 'O Queen, with my own Hands, (tho' I am more than '64 Years of Age) wrought this Linnen, which I have 'taken the Liberty to preſent to thy Royal Hand; I be'ſeech thee ſuffer thy Grandchild to wear it; and may 'the Almighty, who has made thee Mother of many 'Children, make them and their Children Comforts to 'thee and to thy People. So prays thy humble but faith'ful Subject, MARY HARRIS.

Mrs. *Harris* had the Honour to deliver the Caps into her Majeſty's own Hand, and received her Thanks for them.

A Monument, in Memory of the late Mr. *Dennis*, the celebrated Poet, is to be erected amongſt thoſe of *Ben Johnſon*, *Dryden*, *Prior*, &c. by a voluntary Subſcription of ſeveral Perſons of Diſtinction, who maintained him in his latter Years.

Laſt Saturday Morning about Five o'Clock, two Boats coming to *London* from *Mortlack*, were over-ſet over-againſt *Barn-Elms*, whereby three Paſſengers were drowned.

Our Letters from *Holland* of the 21ſt Inſt. N. S. bring an Account, that there was a ſtrange Murder juſt committed at the *Hague*. A *German* Gentleman, who lodged at the Parliament of *England*, croſſing the Street to go to a neighbouring Houſe, was attacked by three Gentlemen, or rather three Ruffians, by whom he was twice ſtabbed in the Left Arm, and once in the Belly. They had gone farther, but one of the three cried out, *Morbleu, Qu'avons nous fait? ce n'eſt pas* ***, naming the Perſon they deſigned; whereupon they ran away. Strict Search was making for the Authors of this Tragedy when our Letters came away, and we hear they had ſeized an Advocate Fiſcal.

If the Actions of Princes are ſuppos'd to indicate their Diſpoſitions, it is not difficult to gueſs, whether the Courts of *France* and *Spain* are in a Humour to raiſe Difficulties or remove them, with relation to an Accommodation. *France* talks of Peace, but inſiſts firſt to ſee King *Staniſlaus* upon the Throne of *Poland*, and the Grievances of her other Allies addreſs'd. *Spain* is ready to ſheath the Sword, upon Condition that her Conqueſts in *Italy* be confirm'd to *Don Carlos* by a Peace. The former encreaſes her Taxes and her Troops; the latter is augmenting her naval Force with fourteen Ships of the Line, four Bomb-Ships, and two Fire-Ships, and Preparations are making for a new Tranſport of Troops to *Naples*, to ſupply the Place of thoſe order'd to *Lombardy*, for the Defence of *Don Carlos*'s Dominions there.

The ſeveral Courts of *Europe*, on all Occaſions, confeſs, that his *Britannick* Majeſty, by his indefatigable Labours to compoſe their Differences, has ſhewn himſelf a Lover of Mankind, and that he has at Heart the general Balance of Power, as well as more immediately the Proſperity of his own Kingdoms: His Majeſty has employ'd all the Means that Prudence and Juſtice ſuggeſted, or Opportunity offer'd; and though he has not hitherto receiv'd the full Satisfaction he had Reaſon to hope for his Care and Pains, yet *Britain* has the Glory of his Endeavours, and he ſhall be repaid with the Love of his People, as he daily receives the Thanks of Foreign Nations.

They write from *Liſbon*, that the Marriage of the King of *Portugal*'s ſecond Son to the Archdutcheſs *Leonora*, his *Imperial* Majeſty's youngeſt Daughter, is on the Point of being concluded.

We learn by Letters from *Ratiſbon*, that the Emperor has ſignified to the ſeveral Princes of the Empire, that his Troops would be ready to take the Field very early in the Spring, and hoped theirs would be in a Condition to do the like, in order to prevent the Misfortunes that may ariſe from any Delay. His *Imperial* Majeſty has acquainted the

Diet of *Ratiſbon*, that the *French* threaten to open the next Campaign with the Siege of *Mentz*, and therefore recommends it to them to grant a Sum of Money for encreaſing the Fortifications of a Place, which is at preſent ſo important a Barrier to the Empire, and which the Inhabitants of the Electorate are incapable to do of themſelves, exhauſted as they are by the exceſſive Contributions the *French* have laid them under.

Deaths. Laſt Monday died, at the Houſe in which he was born, at *Broadwater* near *Stenning* in *Suſſex*, Mr. *John Burnet*, aged 106. He had had ſix Wives, three of whom he married and buried ſince he enter'd into the 101ſt Year of his Age.——Yeſterday Se'nnight died, at *Haughton* in *Shropſhire*, Sir *Humphry Brigges*, Bart.

Bankrupts. Samuel Dudſon, late of *Manſfield*, in the County of *Nottingham*, Apothecary.——*John Hall*, late of *Holborn*, in the County of *Middleſex*, Linnen-Draper.——*Edmund Hodgkins*, of *Stanlake*, in the County of *Oxon*, Baker and Chapman.

TUESDAY, *December* 17.

A Scheme is preparing for laying a Duty upon Barley diſtill'd into Geneva, *&c.*

On Thurſday Night laſt Mr. *Figg*, the celebrated *Britiſh* Prize-Fighter, was buried at St. *Mary-le-Bone*; and the Night following his Wife was deliver'd of a young Champion.

Yeſterday Morning about Two o'Clock Mr. *Quionie*, one of his Majeſty's Meſſengers, arrived at his Grace the Duke of *Newcaſtle*'s Office at *Whitehall*, from *Stockholm*: He had the Misfortune, by the Negligence of his Guide in miſſing the Road, to fall with his Horſe from a Precipice into a Vale of Snow 15 Foot deep, between *Montfarlia* and *Farlemont*, where he continued near 14 Hours, but was happily got out by ſome Perſons coming by in a Poſt-Waggon, tho' almoſt periſh'd with Cold, having loſt the Uſe of three of his Fingers, and one of his Thumbs.

The Elector of *Bavaria* had lately an Accident which had like to have been fatal to him; but the Circumſtances were wrong related in the former Accounts; for his Electoral Highneſs, it ſeems, being a Boar-hunting, and very intent on the Purſuit of one of thoſe Animals, which was almoſt ſpent, had loſt his Company; and the Boar taking a-croſs a River, his Highneſs rode through after him; but his Horſe not being able to clamber up the farther Bank, he caught hold of the Bough of a Tree, thinking by the Aſſiſtance of that, to have got upon the Bank, but breaking, he fell backwards into the River, and was carried a conſiderable Way by the Violence of the Stream, and at laſt ſav'd himſelf with abundance of Difficulty. In the Condition that he was in, he was obliged to walk a conſiderable Way in the Foreſt, till he accidentally met with ſome of his Company, who conducted him to a Mill, till ſuch Time as they could procure dry Linnen and Cloaths for him him.

Mr. *George Robinſon*, late Treaſurer to the *Charitable Corporation* (and now in *France*) having made a Propoſal to the Aſſignees in a Commiſſion of Bankrupt awarded againſt him, for ſurrendring himſelf to the Commiſſioners, and making a Diſcovery of his Eſtate and Effects, we hear a proper Application is intended to be made to the enſuing Parliament, to grant Leave to the ſaid Bankrupt to return home, in order to perform his Promiſe.

Laſt Week ſome of the Officers of the Cuſtoms, aſſiſted by a Party of Foot-Guards from the *Tower*, ſeiz'd eight Horſes loaded wit Run Tea, between *Bow* and *Mile-End*. There were twelve Smugglers with the Horſes, but upon Sight of the Soldiers they ran away.

The *Daniſh* Men of War have made a new Capture of two Ships belonging to the City of *Hamburg*; they were laden with Corn, and bound for *Spain*.

Preferment. Sir *John Gonſon*, Knt. Chairman of the Seſſions for the *Tower* Diviſion, is appointed Colonel of the ſecond Regiment of the *Tower* Hamlets, in the room of Sir *William Ogbourne*, deceas'd.

Death. On Friday laſt died, after about ſeven Hours Illneſs, at his Seat at *Becket* in *Berkſhire*, *John* Lord Viſcount *Barrington*, of *Ardglaſs* in the County of *Down*, ſo created *June* 11, 1720, 7 *George* I. In the Year 1714, he was elected a Member of Parliament for the Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*, for which Town he was alſo elected in the late Parliament, and was a Candidate at the laſt Election againſt the Lord *Polworth*, but loſt it by four. Between 20 and 30 Years ago *John Wildman*, of *Becket*, Eſq; ſettled his large Eſtate on him, tho' no Relation, and had but little Acquaintance with him: And ſome Years after, another conſiderable Eſtate was left him by Mr. *Barrington* of *Eſſex*, whereupon he took that Name by Act of Parliament, his former being *Shute*. His Lordſhip married *Anne*, Daughter and Co-heireſs to Sir *William Daines*, of the City of *Briſtol*, Knt. by whom he has nine Children living, and is ſucceeded in Honour and Eſtate by his eldeſt Son *William-Wildman*, now Lord Viſcount *Barrington*.

WEDNESDAY, *December* 18.

We hear from *Lincolnſhire*, that they have had ſo much Wet, that the Ways are extream bad, and in many Places unpaſſable, the Waters qeing out; and ſome other Places we have Accounts of the great Rains lately fallen, ſo that the Cattle can't travel: And ſo near Town as *Chertſey-Bridge*, the River *Thames* has overflowed the Meadows in many Places, and we expect to hear of great Floods from the Low Countries.

The Waters are ſo much out about *Edmonton*, that the Perſon who keeps *Cook*'s Ferry, about a Mile Diſtance, is obliged to come in a Boat to the *Bell* at *Edmonton*, to get Proviſions for his Family, who now live in the Upper Rooms.

Yeſterday Morning about Six o'Clock, a Fire broke out at the Houſe of Mr. *Walker*, in *Church-ſtreet* near *Chriſt-Church*, *Spittlefields*, which conſumed great Part of the ſaid Houſe, and very much alarm'd the Neighbourhood; but by timely Aſſiſtance it was happily extinguiſh'd, without doing any conſiderable Damage.

We hear from *Cowes*, that on Saturday laſt about Three o'Clock in the Morning, a Sloop, Burthen 60 Tons, call'd the *Friend's Adventure* of *Dover*, *Jacob Rouſe*, Maſter, bound for *London* from *Seville*, laden with Oranges, ran aſhore, and was loſt on the South Part of the *Iſle of Wight*; but all the Men were ſaved.

They write from *Cainham*, a Village near *Ludlow* in *Shropſhire*, that one *John Floyde* of that Place being left Truſtee *William Houghton* (a Boy of nine Years of Age, and an Ideot, but poſſeſs'd of an Eſtate of about 161. a Year for his Maintenance) and being apprehenſive of an Enquiry into the Diſcharge of his Truſt, dreſs'd his Daughter (a Girl about 16 Years old) in Rags, to prevent her being known, and married her on the 16th of laſt Month to the ſaid Boy: However, the Secret being diſcover'd, *Floyde* has been cited before the Court at *Ludlow*, to give an Account of his Conduct, and how faithfully he has executed his Office.

We have an Account from *Much-Dewchurch* in *Herefordſhire*, that laſt Week one *Suſannah Parſons*, Wife of *John Parſons* of that Pariſh, was met in the Fields by three Men, who at firſt offer'd her Money to have criminal Converſation with her; but ſhe refuſing it, they us'd her very barbarouſly, and robbed her of three Shillings in Money and her Hat and Cloak: They are all three apprehended and committed to *Hereford* Gaol.

On Sunday Morning laſt Mr. *Hankey* of *Peckham*, Son of Sir *Henry Hankey*, one of the Aldermen of this City, was robb'd by two Highwaymen of a Gold Watch and ſeven Guineas, as he was going in his Coach to *Camberwell* Church.

Preferments. On Tueſday at a Board of Admiralty the Right Hon. the Earl of *Granard* (late Lord *Forbes*) was ſworn in Rear-Admiral of the Red, in the room of Sir *George Saunders*, deceas'd.——Admiral *Haddock* was ſworn in Rear-Admiral of the White, in the room of the Earl of *Granard*.——And Capt. *Hagar*, an old experienc'd Commander in the Navy, was appointed and ſworn Rear-Admiral of the Blue, in the room of Admiral *Haddock*.

Bankrupt. Ralph Aſhmall, of *Stockton*, in the County of *Durham*, Grocer and Chapman.

THURSDAY, *December* 19.

On Tueſday laſt the Lady *Frances Meadows*, Siſter to his Grace the Duke of *Kingſton*, and Wife of *Philip Meadows*, Eſq; ſecond Son of Sir *Philip Meadows*, Knt. and Knight-Marſhal, was ſafely brought to Bed of a Daughter.

On Tueſday came on at *Guildhall*, in the Court of *Common-Pleas*, before the Lord Chief Juſtice *Eyre*, a Cauſe, wherein one Mr. *Hall* was Plaintiff, and the Governor and Company of the *Royal-Exchange* Inſurance, Defendants, relating to a Breach of Covenant in a Policy for inſuring 500 l. on the Ship *Eyles*, from her firſt Arrival at *Maderas* to *London*. And it appearing at the Trial, that the ſaid Ship, after her Arrival at *Maderas*, ſailed to *Bengall*, and was loſt in coming out of the River there; the Plaintiff having thereby exceeded the Bounds of the Inſurance, was on that Account nonſuited.

Letters from the *Hague* of the 24th Inſtant, N. S. ſay, that the Prince and Princeſs of *Orange* arriv'd the Night before at *Breda*, intended to go and lie at *Gorcum* that Night, and to proceed the next Day by Water in a Yacht to *Rotterdam*, or directly by *Delftſhaven* to *Delft*; and that ſeveral People were preparing to go and meet their Highneſſes.

On Tueſday Night, at a Wardmote held in the Pariſh of St. *Gregory*'s near St. *Paul*'s, for the Choice of Ward-Officers, Mr. *Theophilus Perkins*, Vintner, at the *Horn* Tavern in *Doctor*'s-*Commons*, was unanimouſly choſen Common-Council-Man for the Eaſt Precinct of the ſaid Pariſh, in the room of Mr. *Richard Trubey*, who kept the *King*'s-*Arms* Tavern in St. *Paul*'s *Church-Yard*.

FRIDAY, *December* 20.

Yeſterday was held a General Council at St. *James*'s, when his Majeſty was pleaſed to prick down the following Gentlemen to ſerve as Sheriffs for the ſeveral Counties in *England* and *Wales* for the Year enſuing, *viz.*

ENGLAND.

Bedfordſhire,	Thomas Groom, Eſq;
Berkſhire,	Henry Tompkins, Eſq;
Buckinghamſhire,	John Ware, Eſq;
Camb. & Hunt.	Poſtpon'd.
Cheſhire,	Poſtpon'd.
Cumberland,	Fletcher Partis, Eſq;
Derbyſhire,	Francis Sitwell, Eſq;
Devonſhire,	Nicholas Hooper, Eſq;
Dorſetſhire,	Edmund Hayter, Eſq;
Eſſex,	Samuel-Symons Pebys, Eſq;
Glouceſterſhire,	Thomas Lingen, Eſq;
Herefordſhire,	Robert Mynas, Eſq;
Hertfordſhire,	Anthony Rodney Buckeridge, Eſq;
Kent,	Bladwyn Duppa, jun. Eſq;
Leiceſterſhire,	Charles Boſville, Eſq;
Lincolnſhire,	Robert Lychford, Eſq;
Monmouthſhire,	Richard Lewis, Eſq;
Norfolk,	George Smith, Eſq;
Northamptonſhire,	Thomas Langton, Eſq;
Northumberland,	Henry Elliſon, Eſq;
Nottinghamſhire,	Thomas Liſter, Eſq;
Oxfordſhire,	Sebaſtian Smythe, Eſq;
Rutlandſhire,	Thomas Tomlyn, Eſq;
Shropſhire,	Sherrington Davenport, Eſq;
Somerſetſhire,	John Brickdale, Eſq;
Southampton,	Robert Graham, Eſq;
Staffordſhire,	John Hodgets, Eſq;
Suffolk,	John Reynolds, Eſq;
Surry,	John Copeland, Eſq;
Suſſex,	Poſtpon'd.
Warwicſhire,	Robert Parker, Eſq;
Wiltſhire,	William Vylett, Eſq;
Worceſterſhire,	George Naſh, Eſq;
Yorkſhire,	Poſtpon'd.

WALES.

Carmarthen,	Thomas Bavan, Eſq;
Cardigan,	William Brigſtock, Eſq;
Glamorgan,	Grant Gibbon, Eſq;
Brecknock,	Evan Williams, Eſq;
Radnor,	John Clarke, Eſq;
Pembroke,	Weriott Owen, Eſq;
Montgomery,	Thomas Brown, Eſq?
Denbigh,	Poſtpon'd.
Flint,	Thomas Griffith, Eſq;
Carnarvon,	Humphry Meredith, Eſq;
Angleſea,	——— Roberts, Eſq;
Merioneth,	Robert Vaughan, Eſq;

The Report of the ten Maleſactors now under Sentence of Death in *Newgate*, is put off till after *Chriſtmas*.

We hear from the *Iſle of Thanet*, that a Boat belonging to *Gillingham* was loſt in *Court-Stairs-Bay* laſt Saturday, and that *William Paſcal*, Maſter, and four Perſons more belonging to her, were all drowned.

Laſt Monday the Lady of Sir *John Heathcote*, Bart. Member of Parliament for *Bodmin*, was brought to Bed of a Daughter.

On Sunday laſt about Twelve o'Clock at Noon, Mr. *Coverley*, a wealthy Cheeſemonger in the Borough of *Southwark*, and his Brother-in-Law, were ſtopt in a Coach in *Rainbow-Lane*, between *Camberwell* and *Peckham*, by two young Highwaymen, genteely dreſs'd and well mounted; one of them ſtood over the Horſes, whilſt the other put his Hat into the Coach with one Hand, and a Piſtol cock'd in the other, demanding their Money; Mr. *Coverley* putting about twelve Shillings in Silver into the Hat, the Gingling of it ſo frighten'd the Horſe, that he gave a ſudden Start, and the Piſtol went off, but happily without any Damage: The Report of the Piſtol ſurpriz'd the other Highwayman's Horſe, inſomuch that he could not rule him, and his Hat flying off, they rode away in Confuſion, without rifling the Gentlemen any further, who brought the Rogue's Hat home with them. Theſe are ſaid to be the Perſons who robb'd Mr. *Hankey* the ſame Morning going to *Camberwell* Church.

Marriage. Yeſterday the Hon. *Robert Byng*, Eſq; Member of Parliament for *Plymouth*, was married to the Daughter of *Jonathan Forward*, Eſq; a conſiderable Merchant of this City.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Extract of a Letter from Berlin, *December* 8.

BY the frequent Intercourſe of Couriers between *Berlin* and *London*, 'tis judg'd that the Treaty of Marriage between the Prince of *Wales* and the Princeſs *Ulrica*, fifth Daughter to his *Pruſſian* Majeſty, which is negotiating, will be brought to a ſpeedy Concluſion.

Hague, Dec. 14. N. S. We have Advice from *Peterſburg*, that the two Emiſſaries ſent thither by *France* had left that Court, the Troops of their Nation being ſailed, and conſequently the Pretence for their Miſſion ceaſing; ſo that they could not be ſuffered there any longer, without giving Uneaſineſs to ſome of the Allies. They did not ſucceed in any Part of their Commiſſion, though they made magnificent Propoſals to engage the Czarina not only to abandon the Party of King *Auguſtus*, but even to protect King *Staniſlaus*, promiſing on the Part of that Prince what he could not, durſt not give, had he been in the peaceable Poſſeſſion of the Throne, the *Pacta Conventa* having provided to the contrary. They could not ſo much as obtain the Liberty of the Marquis *de Monti*, for whom ſeveral Foreign Powers had interceded, in Anſwer to which the Czarina of *Ruſſia* ſo plainly demonſtrated,

1. That ſhe had not violated the *Law of Nations* upon this Account, that they had nothing to reply. They were told, that the Prerogatives of Ambaſſadors never take Place, but between the Powers that *ſend*, and thoſe that *receive* them; and that to pretend to ſtrain thoſe Prerogatives in favour of the Marquis *de Monti*, would be a very ſtrange Thing even in *France*: becauſe that Officer was not ſent by the moſt *Chriſtian* King to her *Czarian* Majeſty: Beſides that all *Europe* is Witneſs of the open Hoſtilities he committed againſt her *Czarian* Majeſty; inſomuch that he well deſerves to be treated like an Enemy in his Turn.

2. Becauſe it is notorious, even from the Marquis's Conduct, that he was at the Head of a Faction in *Poland*, who had the Inſolence to proclaim for King an Enemy to her *Czarian* Majeſty and to his Country; to the great Contempt of the Conſtitutions of the Kingdom, of which her *Czarian* Majeſty is Guarantee.

3. He declared, that he was King *Staniſlaus*'s Miniſter Plenipotentiary, when he was deſired to uſe his Intereſt in Behalf of the Miniſters of *Saxony* inſulted at *Warſaw*.

4. He publiſhed Orders at *Dantzick* in the Name of King *Staniſlaus*, and counterſigned his Letters to Brigadier *de la Motte*.

From theſe Facts it appears, that the Marquis cannot be looked upon by her *Czarian* Majeſty in the Quality of an Ambaſſador; and that even if he was one, he exceeded the Bounds of the Commiſſion and Duties of an Ambaſſador, and acted more like a zealous Officer of King *Staniſlaus*.

5. Every one knows, that ſince the Death of King *Auguſtus* II. that Marquis has committed ſuch open and cruel Hoſtilities againſt the Empire of *Ruſſia*, that a declared Enemy could not do more; having endeavoured to ſtir up not only *Poland* againſt her *Czarian* Majeſty, but other Powers with which ſhe lives in good Friendſhip.

6. It was at his Inſtigation, that ſo many Defamatory Libels were publiſhed at *Warſaw*.

7. He raiſed the Regiment of *Monti*, which was employed againſt the *Ruſſian* Troops.

8. He commanded in Perſon both in the Town, and in the Outworks of *Dantzick*.

9. He animated and encouraged the *Dantzickers*, to the laſt Extremity, againſt her *Czarian* Majeſty, by Force, by Preſents, and Promiſes.

10. He gave Orders for attacking the *Ruſſian* Retrenchments, where the Count *de Plelo* was killed.

11. He would have forced Brigadier *de la Motte* to attack the *Someſchantz* guarded by *Ruſſians*.

12. He gloried in having facilitated and effected King *Staniſlaus*'s Eſcape during the Capitulation of *Dantzick*.

13. Notwithſtanding all theſe Hoſtilities, he was ſo far from demanding Paſports during the Siege, that he even refuſed to be included in the Capitulation; and in his Letter to Count *Munich* he ſurrenders at Diſcretion, with a Ranting Air, *ready to undergo* (ſays he) *all the Miſeries I know are deſigned me*,

After all theſe Facts, her *Czarian* Majeſty leaves it to *European* Powers to decide, Whether the *French* Miniſtry have any Right to proclaim the Protection of the Law of Nations in favour of the Marquis *de Monti*. At the ſame Time ſhe recommends it to them to conſider, Whether the Condition of Sovereign Powers would not be worſe than that of private Perſons, if they were not permitted to treat like an Enemy, a Man that after having committed all Manner of Hoſtilities againſt them, is obliged to ſurrender at Diſcretion. In Concluſion they ſay, 'After all, the 'Marquis *de Monti* has better Luck than he deſerves, in 'falling, notwithſtanding his Hoſtilities and his bad Conduct, into the Hands of an Empreſs, who has hitherto 'made him feel none but the Effects of her great Clemency.

Cremona, Dec. 9. It is given out, that the *Imperialiſts* have inveſted *Guaſtalla*, in order to beſiege it in Form: And we are told, on the other hand, that 20,000 of the Allies Troops are actually marching, under the Command of the Marſhal *de Broglio* and the Duke *de Harcourt*, to relieve that Place.

Koningsberg, Dec. 11. The *Poliſh* Lords and Prelates, who were at *Dantzick*, and are come to King *Staniſlaus* here, have written a Letter to the Pope, wherein they diſavow every Step they took in favour of King *Auguſtus*.

Vienna, Dec. 11. We hear that a Courier from *London* has brought Advice, that the Powers Mediators had fixed the Term of ſix Weeks for the three Courts in Alliance to declare their Sentiments either for Peace or War. In order to put the Emperor's Finances upon a better Foot, it is propoſed to retrench one fourth Part of all Penſions, Salaries, Wages and Emoluments payable out of the Civil Liſt, excepting the Salaries allowed to Miniſters in Foreign Countries.

Hamburg, Dec. 14. The Empreſs of *Ruſſia* has ſent a Preſent of 8000 Rubles to the young Prince, Son and Heir to the Duke of *Holſtein Gottorp*; and her *Imperial* Majeſty has alſo appointed him Lieutenant-Colonel of the Guards of *Preobrazenſky*, with a Salary of 10,000 Rubles. The laſt Letters from *Stockholm* confirm the breaking up of the General Dyet on the 9th; and thoſe from *Copenhagen* ſtill aſſure us, that his *Daniſh* Majeſty is to ſend 6000 Men into the Service of the Emperor next Spring.

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